

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 are amended. It is believed no new subject matter is introduced into the application. Support for the claims can be found throughout the original specification, including the claims and the drawings originally filed, for example, at page 7, paragraph 33, page 9, paragraph 39, and page 10, paragraph 43. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The indication in the Office Action, at page 3, that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. However, for at least the reasons below, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action, at page 2, objects to the Abstract. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection and submit that grounds for the objection are obviated by the above amendments to the Abstract. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, also at page 2, rejects claims 1 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP08171987A to Shirakawa. The Office Action, at page 3, rejects claims 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shirakawa in view of JP09050884A. Because the references fail to disclose or suggest all the features of the claims, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a heating apparatus in a microwave oven having a means for heating an article. Claim 1 recites an oscillating means formed at the outside of the cavity,

connected to the tray, for oscillating the tray such that ultrasonic waves generated by the oscillating means are transmitted to the article through the tray. It is respectfully submitted that at least this feature is not disclosed or suggested by the asserted references.

Shirakawa relates to a microwave oven. Shirakawa discloses that a turntable 7 on which food is to be placed is provided in a heating chamber 1, in which microwaves from a magnetron 4 are radiated through a waveguide 2. The turntable 7 can be vibrated by a motor 8. (Abstract and Figure 1 of Shirakawa). Shirakawa, at paragraph 37, discloses that a sonicator 25 is provided inside the heating chamber 1 as an oscillating means, as shown in Figure 1. Accordingly, Shirakawa does not disclose or suggest at least an oscillating means formed at the outside of the cavity, as recited in claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that JP09050884A also fails to disclose or suggest an oscillating means formed at the outside of the cavity.

Claim 1 is thus allowable for at least the reasons above. Claims 2-6 ultimately depend from claim 1, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as additional patentable features recited therein and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is allowable for reasons similar to claim 1. Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7 and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as additional patentable features

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recited therein and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

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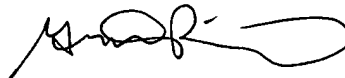
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Garth D. Richmond**, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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